

Smart, Mark

From: Toohey, Rick <RToohey@Lowellma.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 7:10 PM
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Subject: Lowell Wastewater CSO Discharge Notification - Start
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Diversion Start Time (24-hour clock): 10/23/18 18:59

This is a public notification that discharges of untreated Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) are currently underway at Lowell Wastewater Utility's diversion structures. These CSO diversions are an untreated mixture of stormwater and sewage that is discharged into nearby receiving waters when the capacity of the local wastewater transport and treatment systems are exceeded as a result of heavy rain.

These diversions occur only when necessary to reduce risks to public health and safety that would otherwise result from street flooding and property damage. We are constantly working to improve our wet-weather management program in order to reduce the volume and frequency of these discharges.

Due to elevated levels of bacteria concentrations, public health officials recommend avoiding primary contact recreation (swimming) following CSO discharges. Even when no CSOs are discharged, elevated bacteria concentrations in the Merrimack and Concord rivers are likely to occur as a result of heavy rain. A follow-up email will be distributed when these discharges have ceased.

NPDES Permit Number: MA0100633

Lowell Wastewater Operations Division

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